

Application No.: 09/811,682
Amendment Dated: March 14, 2006
Reply to Office Action of: December 15, 2005

MTS-3237US

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-26 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1, 9-10, 16, 19-20 are cancelled. Claims 2, 4, 11, 17-18 are amended. Claims 24-26 have been newly added.

The Abstract was rejected because it contained more than one paragraph and included improper legal phraseology such as "means." This rejection is overcome by the amendments made to the Abstract.

Applicants appreciate the indication in the Office Action that claims 2-8, 11-15, 17 and 19 would be allowable if amended to be independent and to include all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Claims 2, 4 and 11 have been amended to be independent and to include all of the limitations of their base claims. Accordingly, claims 2, 4 and 11 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 3 depends from claim 2. Claims 5-8 depend from claim 4. Claims 12-15 depend from claim 11. Thus, claims 3, 5-8 and 12-15 are also in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as claims 2, 4 and 11.

Claims 1, 9-10 and 16-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Nishimoto et al. With regard to claims 1, 9-10, 16 and 19-20 this rejection is overcome by the cancellation of these claims.

With regard to claim 17, this rejection is overcome by the amendments to claims 2, 4 and 11. As described above, claims 2, 4 and 11 are now in condition for allowance. Claim 17 has been amended to be dependent on any one of claims 2, 4 and 11. Thus, claim 17 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as

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being anticipated by Nishimito et al. for at least the same reasons as claims 2, 4 and 11.

With regard to claim 18, this rejection is overcome by amending claim 18 to be dependent on any one of newly added claims 24-26. Newly added claim 24, while not identical to claim 2, includes features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 2. Thus, newly added claim 24 is also allowable over the art of record for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 2.

Newly added claim 25, while not identical to claim 4, includes features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 4. Thus, newly added claim 25 is also allowable over the art of record for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 4.

Newly added claim 26, while not identical to claim 11, includes features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 11. Thus, newly added claim 26 is also allowable over the art of record for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 11.

Because claim 18 depends on any one of claims 24-26, claim 18 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nishimito et al. for at least the same reasons noted above as claims 24-26.

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 21-23.

The prior art made of record but not applied has been considered but does not affect the patentability of the invention.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are either allowed or in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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DDF/ddf/fp

Attachment: Abstract

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March 14, 2006



Fran Petrillo